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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 24, 2003

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***Savannah Luxury Car Salesman Acting Under False Identity
Enters Guilty Plea in Connection with Schemes to Defraud***

SAVANNAH: Rick Thompson, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that **HAMID SHIRAZI GOLSHANI a/k/a “Eugene Vincent Moore”** entered a plea of guilty in United States District Court, in Savannah, before U.S. District Judge William T. Moore, Jr., to one count of bank fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 1344, and one count of mail fraud, 18 U.S.C. § 1341, in connection with schemes to defraud banks and individuals of money and property connected to his activities as a Savannah luxury automobile broker during the latter part of 1998. In February, 2000, a grand jury returned an indictment with 11 charges related to these schemes.

The Indictment alleged that during November and December of 1998, Golshani devised a scheme to defraud SunTrust Bank and others. Golshani had been living in Savannah for years under an assumed identity of Eugene Vincent Moore and brokering luxury cars for local clients from dealerships around the country, with SunTrust Bank providing financing for most of the sales. During November and December, Golshani arranged numerous sales of cars to clients with financing by SunTrust Bank. After receiving financing, Golshani delivered the cars to his clients, but never paid the Florida dealerships who owned the cars. The dealers repossessed the automobiles and SunTrust Bank lost approximately \$118,000. The Indictment further alleged that Golshani defrauded

a dealership in Ohio by receiving and cashing \$90,000 in checks for delivery of a Ferrari and a Mercedes, but Golshani never delivered the cars. On December 10, 1998, after collecting the money from both schemes, Golshani left Savannah and did not return until he was arrested in November, 2002, in Canada. Golshani had been on FBI's list of wanted international fugitives since shortly after he was indicted. Golshani faces possible punishment of up to thirty-five years imprisonment and a \$1,250,000 fine. A date for sentencing has not been set.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Indictment and guilty pleas were the culmination of an investigation by Special Agent Garrett Gnatek from the Savannah office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney William Frentzen is representing the government in the case.

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